

dailynews.com

[JOBS](#)
[AUTOS](#)
[HOMES](#)
[MARKETPLACE](#)

Search DailyNews.com

Archive Search

Los Angeles, CA,
11/9/2007 Los Angeles, CA,
4/22/2007

- HOME
- NEWS
- SPORTS
- BUSINESS
- OPINIONS
- ENTERTAINMENT
- HEALTH
- TRAVEL
- INFO
- CLASSIFIED ADS

- HOME**
- PODCASTS**
- BLOGS**
- OPINIONS**
- [Your Opinion](#)
- [Their Opinion](#)
- OPINION COLUMNS**
- [Chris Weinkopf](#)
- [Mariel Garza](#)
- [Bridget Johnson](#)
- [Steve Young](#)
- [Patrick O'Connor](#)
- COFFEE BREAK**
- [Sports Challenge](#)
- [Sudoku Classic](#)
- [Flash Games](#)
- [Crossword](#)
- [Crickler](#)
- [Horoscopes](#)
- INFO**
- [Subscribe](#)
- [Services](#)
- [Place an Ad](#)
- dailynews.com A-Z

DailyNews.com A-Z

- del.icio.us
- Digg
- Reddit
- YahooMyWeb
- Google
- What's this?

Mayor's gang strategy

Real plan to keep kids out of trouble is long overdue

Article Last Updated: 04/19/2007 07:57:34 PM PDT

IN his second State of the City address, Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa said his top priority for the coming year is gangs - or rather, their negative influence on the city and its people.

After two failures in the past week over issues the mayor had little control over - the schools and the Olympics - it was good to see him taking on an issue not only within his purview, but one that affects everything in the city, from the quality of life to the economy to education.

To do this, Villaraigosa earmarked \$168 million in the \$6.7 billion, 2007-08 city budget. Ninety percent of that money already is being spent on the gang problem without any kind of accountability, coordination or measure of success.

That modest amount of money will pay for intervention and prevention programs, appointment of a "gang czar," counseling, creation of more jobs for young people. Meanwhile, the mayor will ask City Controller Laura Chick to audit gang-prevention programs and dump the ones that aren't working.

To be sure, Angelenos have heard politicians wax gang crackdown many times before. But Villaraigosa promises this time will be different because of his commitment to rally for state and federal assistance.

The

Advertisement

mayor certainly has offered the basis for a promising anti-gang strategy this time, as outlined in the 36-page document that proposes a

Plan your getaway at OnlyInArizona.com.

- Hiking
- Family Fun
- Water Sports



California Foreclosures are up 244% over last year

Start your neighborhood search today!

Save up to 75% Last-Minute Cruises

VACATIONS ToGo.com **GO**



Hi. Banner here.
Whoa!
Are you naked?

"comprehensive, collaborative and communitywide approach."

Undeniably, it's the right thing to do politically, economically and morally.

In many ways, the prevalence of gangs in Los Angeles is a reflection of the city's largest problems - poverty, economic disparity, illegal immigration, lack of affordable housing, failed public education and City Hall's abysmal record of solving problems. To get a handle on the gang problem that's festered for decades, we must address it in a comprehensive manner.

In Villaraigosa's description, L.A. is "becoming a city of marble and cardboard, a city of prodigious wealth and withering poverty." Changing that isn't as easy as dedicating a few more resources toward fighting gangs, but it's a strong first step.

The real challenge is for City Hall to stop giving away the treasury to the rich and paying lip service to the poor. The solution to the gang issue is to provide greater opportunity for people to join the middle class, and that requires better paying jobs.

5.99% APR*

+ FREE GAS CARD
with every funded loan

Matadors Community Credit Union

Your **BETTER** alternative to a bank since 1963

CLICK HERE



GAS PRICES MAKING YOU WANT TO GO GREEN?
Purchase a **HYBRID CAR** and get a **GREAT LOW RATE**

5.99% APR*

+ FREE GAS CARD
with every funded loan

Matadors Community Credit Union

Your **BETTER** alternative to a bank since 1963

CLICK HERE



Print Email Return to Top

Recent Editorials

- It's no 'Secret': This is America today
- 'Nanny laws' chip away at freedom
- Policing the unfriendly skies
- NBC made bad decision
- Yeah, I was scammed - with others
- Pay the planet forward
- Imus' last insult
- Insecurity plan
- Rosie, O'Reilly & Hush Factor
- Redlining's end a pinch for some
- Trying to keep up
- Playing games
- They just don't care
- Fed up, Gonzales fires self
- LAUSD knows how to raze a community

Comment (1) | Trackback
Comment (1) | TrackbackTrackback



Protect Yourself
and your Family!

**HEALTH SAVINGS
ACCOUNTS NOW**
at MCCU!

EARN DIVIDENDS
TAX-DEDUCTIBLE
CONTRIBUTIONS *

**FIND
OUT
MORE
TODAY!**
CLICK HERE

FREE CHECK CARD
UNLIMITED CHECK WRITING

*Check with your tax advisor



Your better alternative to a
bank since 1963



www.matadors.org



NOVEMBER 7-11 2007



SEE A
FILM

AFI
FEST

PRESENTED BY 
Audi

www.AFI.com/AFIFEST

PASSES ON SALE
NOW
TICKETS ON SALE
OCTOBER 12

**Save up
to 75%
on
Last-
Minute
Cruises**



*Best Price
Guarantee.
GO!*

**VACATIONS
ToGo.com**

Hi. Banner here.
I'm lost. |

Hi. Banner here.
I'm los

AFI FEST
PRESENTED BY **Audi**
www.AFI.com/AFIFEST

SEE A FILM NOVEMBER 1-11 2007
PASSES ON SALE NOW / TICKETS ON SALE OCTOBER 12

fem
FASHION ELEMENTS

HOLIDAY SHOPPING EVENT WWW.GOTOFEM.COM
PREMIER DESIGNERS
SANTA MONICA CIVIC AUDITORIUM
SATURDAY NOV. 17, 2007
14:00% TO 5PM
FEATURING COLLECTIONS
AT UP TO 60% OFF
RETAIL PRICES

Save up to 75% on Cruises!
Last-minute deals from top cruise lines. **GO** **VACATIONS ToGo.com**

[Copyright Notice](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Information](#)

For more local Southern California news:

Copyright © 2007 Los Angeles Newspaper Group

[Privacy Policy](#) | [MNG Corporate Site Map](#) | [Copyright](#)